

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (Currently Amended). A wound dressing for covering a wound, comprising:

a skin adherent facing layer consisting of a hydrophobic discrete and resilient sheet-like layer of cross-linked silicone gel having a plurality of preformed apertures arranged in a pattern;

wherein the silicone gel layer includes a skin treatment agent selected from the group consisting of aloe vera and petroleum jelly;

wherein the sheet-like shape of the facing layer is defined by opposed, generally continuously planar outermost surfaces, the apertures solely formed between the outermost surfaces.

Claim 2 (Original). The wound dressing according to claim 1, wherein the plurality of apertures are defined in a pattern varying in number per unit area according to their location relative to a center axis of the silicone gel layer.

Claim 3 (Original). The wound dressing according to claim 1, wherein the plurality of apertures are defined in a pattern varying in size according to their location relative to a center axis of the silicone gel layer.

Claim 4 (Canceled).

Claim 5 (Canceled).

Claim 6 (Original). The wound dressing according to claim 1, wherein the apertures are generally circular.

Claim 7 (Original). The wound dressing according to claim 1, wherein the apertures are generally uniform in shape.

Claim 8 (Original). The wound dressing according to claim 1, wherein the apertures are generally equally spaced from one another.

Claim 9 (Original). The wound dressing according to claim 1, wherein the pattern of the apertures comprises alternating apertures of at least two different sizes.

Claim 10 (Original). The wound dressing according to claim 9, wherein the apertures have two different sizes, the first size being larger than the second size and the apertures of the first size being bordered by the apertures of the second size.

Claim 11 (Original). The wound dressing according to claim 10, wherein the apertures of the second size are bordered by the apertures of the first size.

Claim 12 (Original). The wound dressing according to claim 1, wherein the silicone gel layer has a progressive increase of tackiness extending from a central portion to a border portion thereof.

Claim 13 (Canceled).

Claim 14 (Original). The wound dressing according to claim 1, wherein the silicone gel layer has regions of varying thickness.

Claims 15 – 20 (Canceled).

Claim 21 (Canceled).

Claim 22 (Currently Amended). A wound dressing for covering a wound, comprising:

a skin adherent facing layer consisting of a hydrophobic discrete and resilient sheet-like layer of cross-linked silicone gel having a plurality of preformed apertures arranged in a pattern, the discrete facing layer having an uninterrupted thickness;

wherein the sheet-like shape of the facing layer is defined by opposed, generally continuously planar outermost surfaces, the apertures solely formed between the outermost surfaces.

Claim 23 (New). A wound dressing comprising an absorbent core and a facing layer secured to the absorbent core, the facing layer defined by opposed, generally continuously planar outermost surfaces and consisting:

a first discrete and resilient sheet-like layer formed from a first type of cross-linked silicone;

a second discrete and resilient sheet-like layer formed from a second type of cross-linked silicone, and secured to the second layer;

wherein the facing layer defines a plurality of apertures extending therethrough and formed between the outermost surfaces of the facing layer;

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wherein the first layer has a different durometer from a durometer of the second layer.